Modernisation of Telephone Exchanges in Jamnagar and Palanpur

458. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are some telephone exchanges in Jamnagar and Palanpur to be modernised and provided with STD/ISD facilities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the progress made so far; and

(d) by when, the work would be compleged ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) (i) As on date all the exchanges in Jamnagar and Palanpur are Electronic.

(ii) All have STD/ISD (Subscriber Trunk Dialling/ International Subscriber Dialling) facilities.

(iii) Except One Exchange in Palanpur, all are on reliable media.

(c) and (d) The reliable media for remaining one exchange in Palanpur is likely to be commissioned by December, 2001.

Telephone Facilities

†459. SHRI MANOHAR KANT DHYANI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 2398, given in the Rajya Sabha on the 12th December, 2000 and state :

(a) the latest position with regard to telephone facilities and the number of villages in Uttaranchal which are yet to be provided with telephone facility; and

(b) whether the largets for the year 2001 have been achieved and what measures are being taken to achieve the targets for the entire State by March, 2002 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNI-CATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) :

(a) Out of 15,947 villages in Uttaranchal, 7,963 villages have been provided with telecom facility upto 31/10/2001. 7,894 villages are yet to be provided with telephone facility in Uttaranchal.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) Against the target of covering 2,224 villages in the State during the year 2000-2001, 1,264 villages were provided with telecom facility. Out of remaining 7,894 uncovered villages in the State, 3,947 villages are planned to be covered by satellite terminals whereas remaining villages are planned to be covered by WLL technology and land-lines from the nearest exchanges. It is plan to cover all the remaining villages of Uttaranchal State by the end of the year 2002 subject to the availability of funds.

Receipt of Anthrax Letter

†460. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :(a) whether various State Governments of the country and many persons including many Ministers of Central and State Governments have received letters envelopes packets containing anthrax powder;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) the details of the action taken by Government to stop this tendency and what concrete steps have been taken against the culprits to check such incidents ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) :

(a) As far as the information available with the Minisry of Communiations is concerned, there is no case of the letter/envelope/packet containing anthrax powder received or delivered.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) So far there is no confirmed case of letters containing Anthrax. So the question of action against the guilty does not arise.

Sanchar Kranti

†461. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether cellular telepone service has been started after declaration of the Sanchar Kranti in the country;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.